A True

NARRATIVE

Concerning

Sir Arthur Haſlerigs

Poſſeſſing of

Lieutenant-Colonel

JOHN LILBURNES

ESTATE

In the County of

DURHAM.

Imprinted at LONDON.

1653.

A TRUE

NARRATIVE

Concerning

Sir Arthur Hallerigg

Holding of

Lieutenant Colonel

JOHN LAMBURNES

ESTATE

In the County of

DURHAM

BODLEIAN
17 JUN 1937
LIBRARY

To the Members of Parliament, and all others that have bowels of pitty towards cruelly oppreſſed Tenants, &c.

YOu muſt not expect high Language from us, who are low-borne Tennants; We ſhall ſpeake plain Truthes, And firſt, we are bold to tell you, That our Fore-Elders were Antient Tennants to the *Dean and Chapter of Durham*, who thought they had left unto us that large Birth-right which could not legally have been taken from us; but we finde it otherwiſe, for we are now become (unleſs God help us) miſerable ſlaves to Lieutenant Collonel *John Lilburne*; for the Parliament having given unto the ſaid Mr. *Lilburne* three thouſand pounds, and afterwards committed him to the Tower for high Treaſon; and being acquitted by his Jury at *Guild-Hall*, he preſently affirmed, that there was remaining and not paid, fifteen hundred pounds of the ſaid 3000 *l.* gift. The Lord Generall then coming out of *Ireland*, moved the Parliament to give Mr. *Lilburne* the ſaid fifteen hundred pounds ſo owing unto him, out of *Deanes and Chapters* Lands; Which the Parliament immediately granted, and therein begun our miſeries; for we being poor People farre remote and diſtant from *London*, and all, or moſt of us ignorant of our own buſineſs, wanting friends to adviſe or help us, within the ſmall time of pre-emption the Act allowed us, the ſaid Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburne* Rept in before us, and made choyce of ſeverall Farmes and Cottages which we held lying in the County of *Durham*, being the whole livelihood and ſubſiſtence of fourteene Families. And before the Act paſſed, the ſaid Mr. *Lilburne* made large promiſes of kinde uſage to us the Tenants, ſaying in the preſence of ſeverall

witneſſes, *That we ſhould have our Lands again, paying him the Rates of his purchaſe* (namely) *the money he paid*; but ſince, we have ſo farre taſted his kindneſs, as now we have cauſe to ſay, *The Lord deliver us from ſuch a Landlord.* There are of us fourteene Families, and when the Act paſſed, but two of our Farmes were out of Leaſe, *William Huntington* had the one, and *George Clifton*, a poor Priſoner in the Goale, had the other. I, the ſaid *William Huntington* Married a Widdow, that was Tennant to the *Deane and Chapter*, ſhe had a Houſe, Farme, Goods and Houſhold-ſtufie, two Cows and four Children; I, the ſaid *William Huntington* after marriage with her, was forced to borrow moneys to Plow and Sow the ſaid Farme, and God gave me a Childe by her, that made our number five; ſo ſoon as our Houſes, and Lands were ſetled by Authority of Parliament in the ſaid Mr. *Lilburne*, he immediately came into the County of *Durham*, and ſtripped me the ſaid *William Huntington*, of Houſe, Farme, Cropp, Houſhold-ſtuffe, Goods, Hay, and Straw, and two Cowes; he tooke from me Goods to the value of one hundred and thirty pounds at the leaſt; he thruſt us all out of doors, my Wife with her five ſmall Children, leaves us not one Cow, I may truely ſay, ſcarcely one bit of bread; and for my ſelfe, I could expect no other, but to lye and rot in Priſon for the Debt which I borowed as aforeſaid. Next, he fell upon me *George Clifton*, a poor Priſoner in the Goale of *Durham* for debt; he likewiſe caſt my poor Children out of my Houſe and Farme, expoſing them to periſh in the ſtreets; tooke from me Houſe, and Farme, Houſhold-ſtuff, and all that I had; and my Children being put by him upon the Pariſh, he was ſo farre from allowing them ſubſiſtance out of my owne Eſtate, that he refuſed to contribute with the Pariſh towards their maintenance. And thus he dealt with the two Tenants of the two Farmes out of Leaſe. And the ſaid Mr. *Lilburne* alſo threatned me *Gaſcoyne Eden*, becauſe I would not deliver up my Eſtate to him, then having ſeven yeers in Leaſe: He writ a Letter to me, wherein he tells me, That he was the Deane and Chapters Succeſſor, and did therein command me to ſend in a Man and Horſe, according

ding to my Leaſe, in compleat Armes, to ſerve under his Brother Collonell *Robert Lilburne* in *Scotland*; and further ſaid in his ſaid Letter, That if I did not give up my Leaſe to him, (having ſeven years then in being) he would extend all the ſeverall Forfeitures and Breaches of my Leaſe againſt me, to make it void, whereby he might weary me out of my Right and Due of yeers therein. Next after, he fell upon me *Robert Chriſtofer* another of the poor Tennants, who was alwayes conſtant and faithfull to the Parliament, and voluntarily ſet forth Horſes and Armes in the Parliament Service, farre beyond my Eſtate; I never offended him in all my life, but in a moſt humble manner tendering my Rent to him about a week after the day he refuſed to receive it, and told me, My Leaſe was forfeited, by my failing the juſt day of payment, and he would take advantage of it accordingly: Yea, after many humble addreſſes made nnto the ſaid Mr. *Lilburne* by the poor Cottagers and Leaſers, divers of them following him to *London*, and there craving pity and compaſſion from him upon their poor Wives and Children, offering him his money with advantage for the ſaid Lands; he (in a great paſſion) denied, bid them goe home again like as Fools they came, ſaying, He would out them every man as their Leaſes expired. Need then made me poor *William Huntington* to runne from Juſtice to Juſtice, complaining of the wrong done unto me by Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburne*; I went to the publique Seſſions at *Durham*, where Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge* was upon the Bench; after the Reading of my Petition there, he told me, *It was not in the power of the Seſſions to help me.* I then not knowing what elſe to do, went immediately to *London* upon my naked Feet to the Parliament, and Printed my ſad caſe and condition, and delivered it to the Members as they came into the Houſe; at which Lieutenant Collonell *Lilburne* was a little moved, and then ſaid, the buſineſs ſhould be referred to my Lord Generall, Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge*, and Collonel *Martin*; which made me exceedingly to rejoyce: and in purſuance thereof, I attended Collonell *Martin* from place to place according to his appointment, ſo long, that wearineſs and poverty drove me back again into the Country, having nothing to relieve me, but the Charity of ſuch as pittied my conditi-

on.

on. I then being not able to abide in the Country for feare of Impriſonment, came againe to *London* on foot, begging my Bread by the way, it being about two hundred Miles. And having no better ſucceſs at the Parliament doore, after a long attendance, and many being wearied of me, and my ſelfe almoſt of my life; I returned againe to hide my ſelfe a while in the Counrry, hoping God might help at the laſt. Then when I heard that Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburne* was baniſhed, and that there was a Fine to be payd to Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge*, I forthwith tooke me to my Feet, and againe to *London* I went, and told Sir *Arthur*, that it was now in his power to do both my ſelfe, Wife and Children good, and that we would pray for him all our dayes, if he would but help us as God had put it into his hands. Sir *Arthur* was pleaſed to ſpeak to Collonell *Martin*, and a time was appointed at Sir *Arthurs* Chamber at *White-Hall*, where Collonell *Martin*, Mrs. *Lilburne*, Mr. *Richardſon*, Mr. *Williams*, and ſome others of Mrs. *Lilburnes* Friends met: I had onely my ſelfe to lay open my miſerable caſe; which when the aforeſaid Gentlemen heard they lifted up their hands, wondring that Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburne* ſhould deale ſo cruelly with a poore miſerable man, his Wife, and five ſmall Children. Sir *Arthur* moved, that whereas the Rent of that Farme had for a long time been but three pounds *per Annum*; And that the Parliament had ſold it to Lieutenant Collonell *Lilburne*, upon improvement, at eighteen pounds, that therefore I ſhould give eighteen pounds *per Annum* to Mrs. *Lilburne*, which was the racke Rent valued to her Huſband. Mrs. *Lilburnes* Friends that came with her, pittyed my caſe ſo much, that they thought it fit I ſhould have alſo the one hundred and thirty pound Goods reſtored, which Mr. *Lilburne* had taken from me. Mrs. *Lilburne* then replied, that ſhe had no money, but I might have one of my Cowes againe: ſome of her Friends then ſaid, It was fit I ſhould have ſatisfaction out of the Rent. And Sir *Arthur* ſaid, Care muſt be taken that the poore man have a livelihood from his hard labour, ſo that he may preſerve his Wife and Children from ſtarving; And alſo to help Mrs. *Lilburn* and her children. And further ſaid, That he was ſenſible, that *John Lilburn* ought not to have taken

thoſe Goods from me : for if any Arrears were due, they belonged to the State, and not to the Purchaſer. But ſaid, that now Mrs. *Lilburn*, and her children, being in as ſad a condition as my ſelf and mine; that therefore I ſhould pay unto her, for her ſelf and children, the full improvement, which was Eighteen pounds a yeer; and that if I did not carefully pay my Rent, Mrs. *Lilburn* ſhould enter upon the Farm. This, though heavie on my ſide, to loſe all my Goods, and to be raiſed up to ſo high a Rent, as from Three pounds to Eighteen pounds *per annum*, the Agreement being ſigned by Mrs. *Lilburn*, Colonel *Martin*, and Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge*, I joyfully took it, reſolving to labour hard, and to pay my Rent honeſtly; and made haſte into the Country, and ſhewed the Agreement under the aforeſaid hands to Mr. *Richard Lilburn*. Mr. *John Lilburn*'s father, and deſired him to deliver me Poſſeſſion accordingly: which he abſolutely refuſed. Then ſome Women, my wives Neighbours, deſirous to ſee her in her houſe again, thruſt out the ſaid Mr. *Richard Lilburn* from amongſt them: which no ſooner being done, but the ſaid Mr. *Richard Lilburn*, by his great importunity with the Sheriff of the County, and by colour of an old Warrant, as I underſtand, procured the ſaid Sheriff to come to my houſe, and thruſt us out of poſſeſſion, and gave it to Mr. *Richard Lilburn*. Then I forthwith went again to *London* to Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge*, and told him how little Mr. *Richard Lilburn* valued the Agreement made in his Chamber. He told me, he could do no more but get it under Mrs. *Lilburn*'s hand, and Colonel *Martin*'s, and that he knew not what to do or ſay to Mr. *Richard Lilburn*. But I preſſed him moſt earneſtly, and ſaid, I never durſt return into the Country, if I had not help from him; and that it was in his power. And really, I had rotted in Priſon, and my Wife and her children had gone a Begging all their days, who was deſcended of honeſt Parents, ſuch as had lived in good credit amongſt their Neighbours, had I not found pity and compaſſion in Sir *Arthur*'s breſt, neceſſity inciting me ſtrongly to importune him daily for his aſſiſtance: for when he would have put me off, I told him I muſt continue to trouble him. And in truth, my condition was ſo miſerable and deſperate, having gone upon my bare feet two thouſand miles, back and again, or thereabouts, in ſeeking

king releife, that I thought to hang upon his doore would bring me reſt. Sir *Arthur* then acquainted Collonell *Martin* what Maſter *Richard Lilburne* had done, and deſired him to ſpeak to Mrs. *Lilburne*, that order might be taken for the performance of the ſaid Agreement, which ſhe and her Friends had made and ſigned; he promiſed a ſpeedy accompt, and the next day he told Sir *Arthur*, that ſhe had received Letters from her Husband, wherein he commanded, that nothing ſhould be done by her; and thereupon, Sir *Arthur* deſired Collonell *Martin* to tell her from him, That if ſhe would not perform her Agreement, which he apprehended to be juſt and reaſonable, and for her advantage, he thought he was bound in Conſcience to preſerve the poor man, his Wife and Children, by laying his extent upon the Lands. Collonell *Martin* immediately replyed, That he would do very well in ſo doing; and if it was his caſe he would do the like. Collonell *Martin* then acquainted Mrs. *Lilburne* with Sir *Arthurs* reſolution, and returned this anſwer, That ſhe was *John Lilburnes* Wife, and that he could not prevail in the leaſt with her, and therefore bad Sir *Arthur* not to expect further. Then we, the reſt of the Tennants, hoping there was an opportunity for us and ours, made choyce of one Captain *Farrer* to be our Solicitor, and ſent him to *London* to Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge*, to entreat, That according to Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburnes* Promiſe before he bought our Lands, that we might yet have it as he payd: Thereupon, the ſaid Captain *Farrer* applied himſelfe to Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge* at *White-Hall*, acquainting him with the Tennants humble and earneſt deſires; and as it hapned upon ſome complaints that Mrs. *Lilburne* had made to Collonell *Joyce*, againſt Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge*, there was a meeting appointed at Mr. *Peters* Chamber in *White-Hall*, and thither came Mrs. *Lilburne*, and her own Father; and there were preſent Mr. *Peters*, and Collonell *Joyce*; and Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge* tooke the ſaid Captain *Farrer* along with him. Then did Sir *Arthur* Declare in the preſence of all before mentioned, That he never had a thought of getting one penny out of *John Lilburnes* Eſtate, and that Mrs. *Lilburne* had compelled him to lay his extent upon the Land, becauſe ſhe would not

per-

perform the Agreement under her own hand, whereby *Huntington*, his Wife and Children might live. He then declared the great complaints of the Tennants. And this offer was made by Sir *Arthur* to Mrs. *Lilburne*, That the Tennants ſhould pay the ſumme of money, for which the Parliament gave him that Land, being nine hundred and forty pounds, with conſideration from the time of paſſing the Act, ſhe deducting what Rents they had received. Afterward Sir *Arthur* told her, the Tennants ſhould give her a thouſand pound at one entire payment; that the preſent Rent was but three and fifty pound *per annum*: And when all Leaſes were out, it would not come to above one hundred five and twenty pounds *per annum*. And then Mr. *Peters* offered her to help her to a hundred pound *per annum* for ever, and in preſent poſſeſſion for that thouſand pound. Sir *Arthur* told her that if ſhe was his own Siſter, he would adviſe her to take it; for if ſhe did, ſhe was then certaine of good maintenance for her ſelfe and her Chrildren, and that no Act her Husband either had done, or ſhould do, could take it from them, for ſhe ſhould have it upon this Extent; and for his part, he did not expect or deſire thankes. Then Mr. *Peters* and Collonell *Joyce*, much approved the motion, but Mrs. *Lilburne* would not conſent. Then Sir *Arthur* ſaid, He would do the Tennants what good he could, and never take one penny for his own advantage from Mrs. *Lilburne* or her Children. All which the ſaid Captaine *Farrer* is ready to averre and atteſt, upon his own Knowledge: And further, that Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge* hath been at great trouble and charge out of his own Purſe; but never received one penny out of Mr. *Lilburnes* Eſtate. Nay, when we the Tennants deſired the ſaid Captaine *Farrer* to preſent him with a Breeding Mare, as a ſmall token of our thankfulneſs, in anſwer to his great trouble and charge; Sir *Arthur* replied, No, he would not gaine the Hayre of a Horſe by Lieutenant Collonell *Lilburnes* Eſtate; notwithſtanding he bought the ſaid Mare of M. *Thomas Daviſon*. at the Rate of forty pounds. And all we the Tennants do witneſs, That Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge* never received one penny of our Rents; but the ſame or moſt part thereof hath been payd to Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburne*, or to his Father Mr.

Richard Lilburne, for his uſe, ſince the time of his Grant, untill of late, that the ſaid Mr. *Richard Lilburne* refuſeth to receive any more Rents of us, ſaying, That he would not be ordered by Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge* to receive any Rents at his appointment, meaning this Order here under written made and ſigned by Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge*.

I *Do hereby appoint the ſeverall Tenants that hold and Poſſeſs any of the Farmes and Cottages within the Manor of* Billingham *in the County of* Durham, *lately extended by vertue of an Act of Parliament, to and in my Name; That they forthwith pay unto* Richard Lilburne *Gent. for the Wife and Children of Lieutenant Collonell* John Lilburne, *all the ſeverall and reſpective Rents, according to the Inquiſition returned upon the ſaid Extent, being the ſame with his purchaſe, that were due at* Whitſuntide *laſt paſt, and payable unto me; taking acquittance under the ſaid* Richard Lilburnes *Hand, upon the Payment thereof in manner aforeſaid.*

Dated the 21 of *June*, 1652.

Arthur Haſlerigge.

Thus we have declared the truth of Sir *Arthur Haſlerigges* diſpoſing of all Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburnes* Eſtate to his own uſe; and the World may ſee, that Sir *Arthur Haſlerigge* is as much wronged by Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburnes* publiſhing the taking away of his Eſtate, as he was in ſetting forth an *Hue and Cry*, (when he was impriſoned by the Parliament for treaſon as aforeſaid) *to all perſons to aſſiſt him for the knocking of Sir* Arthur Haſlerigge *on the head*, as they would do a *Fox* or a *Poulcat*, *becauſe he had robbed him of this fifteen hundred pounds*, *which the Lord Generall procured*, *as aforeſaid*; when in truth he never touched or tooke from him one halfepenny or farthing in all his life, as honeſt men that are able to make it good, do and will affirme and prove. Now we humbly beſeech all Parliament-men and others whom it may any way concerne, to preſerve us poor Tenants from the cruelty, oppreſſion, and tyranny of Lieutenant Collonell *John Lilburne*. Amen.

Gaſcoyne Eden.
Robt. Chriſtopher.
Jo. Maddiſon.
Wil. Huntington of Billingham.
George Clifton.
Rob. Wilſon.
John Salter.
Matthew Gray.
William Busby.
Jo. Maſon.
Geo. Huntington.
Rob. Shepperd.
Wil. Huntington of Coopen.

FINIS.